

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

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SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 1996

Thieves Leave No Clues in Burglary of Valley Church

By Gerry L. Galvan

Thieves broke into Saint James Presbyterian Church the other week, hauling away a significant amount in church property and other valuables. They left the crime scene with zero clues to their identity.

Obviously, the perpetrators weren't amateurs. Policemen who responded to the subsequent 911 call by the church's pastor couldn't offer any lead. Police crime laboratory personnel found no matchable fingerprints to link anyone.

Sergeant F. Urbino of the SFPD burglary section told the *Grapevine* that the crime area had been wiped clean of fingerprints that could otherwise be used in tracking down the criminals.

So far, the only thread that may possibly be connected with the burglary was what the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jerry O. Resus and his wife, Dr. Araceli N. Resus, say. They've alleged seeing, shortly before leaving the premises on Sunday, January 14, a total stranger within the sanctuary area illegally. The woman was tilting a big coin glass when the Resuses showed up.

Suspecting malice, husband and wife questioned the stranger, who reportedly identified herself as "Yvette" who had come to church Sunday service. Certainly, the Resuses didn't buy such an excuse.



An empty coin bottle was left in the center aisle of St. James Presbyterian Church following the burglary.

The Church's board of trustees has yet to come up with an aggregate figure on the damage to property and valuables lost to the burglars. An independent estimate has placed the loss at almost \$10,000.

"We live in a troubled and dangerous world," was the sentiment expressed by Rev. Resus as he surveyed, with police officers and an elder, the damage and loss. He cautioned, however, that such were adversities in life which the Christian world has learned to live with and occurrences the rest of mankind should also be ready to face when such adversities come.

The burglary at Saint James Church has been one of the many crimes against property in the Valley during recent weeks. It came right on the heels of the mugging of a de-

partment store employee who had returned to her Castillo Street home from an evening assignment. Shortly before the holidays, the post office on Leland Avenue was broken into and burglarized.

It appears that buildings with glass windows, doors and panelings have become most vulnerable to burglars. By the same token, individuals who come home, or who walk in the direction of their transportation means, have at this time become easy prey to crime-oriented elements of our society.

Genuine concern for the obviously deteriorating peace and order situation in the Valley was expressed during a meeting at the Visitacion Valley Elementary School by Principal Vincent Chao, also a strength of

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Architects Present Plans for New Valley Housing on Sunnydale Ave.

Architects attending the January 27 Visitacion Valley Task Force (VUTF) meeting gave residents their first look at sketches of proposed low rise housing to be built on the vacant land along Sunnydale Ave. near Geneva Towers.

"How can we make this a part of Visitacion Valley," asked Michael Willis to those in attendance as he and fellow architect Dan Sullivan unveiled drawings of the 91 new homes designed to blend in with the existing housing.

In a slide presentation outlining the area's present and future appearances, Sullivan explained that architectural planning had vastly improved in the three decades since the twin 20-floor Geneva Towers were planned for construction in an area where structures averaged no more than two stories.

Featuring spacious interiors, each of the new units would be constructed in clusters of eight with entrances from

central courtyards and private parking spaces on the property either adjacent or below the housing. About 22 additional spaces would be reserved for guest parking.

Both architects emphasized that all drawings and diagrams they presented were tentative plans subject to revision following community input.

SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

Principal John Flores of Visitacion Valley Middle School summarized the first VUTF Safety Subcommittee meeting held January 6 in the school's library.

With those in attendance having described their own experiences in local safety issues, Flores stressed the need of formulating a productive plan for making the Valley a safe place to live.

VUTF Acting Chairperson Joel Tata also described steps being taken by the El Dorado Neighborhood Betterment Council, a local organization in existence since 1991, to commence

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PTC to Focus on Stabilizing Muni

Former San Francisco Chief Administrative Officer Rudy Nothenberg was officially elected president of the Public Transportation Commission (PTC) at its first meeting January 23 under Mayor Willie Brown's administration. Kathleen Knox was named vice president of the commission.

During the meeting, Nothenberg stressed a no-nonsense realistic approach to regaining the confidence of Muni riders.

"By getting back to the basics and fundamentals, we can begin to diminish the daily problems that Muni faces," he explained while calling for a special Commission meeting scheduled February 6 to better assess Muni's current status. At that meeting, Phil Adams, director of Public Transportation, will give a detailed report on Muni operations, including the status of the system's operations, maintenance, capital and finance departments.

PTC will initially focus on stabilizing Muni before beginning its long term improvement, while pursuing a stable source of revenue for the Department

of Public Transportation. In order to accomplish these goals, the commission emphasized that teamwork from all departments was necessary to move Muni forward, noting that after years of neglect and confrontation between departments, Muni service and morale had suffered dramatically.

ESL and Citizenship Classes at VVCC

San Francisco City College commences three *English as a Second Language* (ESL) levels of classes at its Visitacion Valley Community Center site, 50 Raymond Ave., Monday through Thursday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. There are also Citizenship classes Friday from 6:30 to 9 p.m., and Sunday morning from 8 to 10:30 a.m.

New ESL students must bring identification to register. It would also be helpful for beginning level students to attend with someone who can assist in completing English registration forms.

Both daytime ESL and vocational education classes are currently being planned for the near future.

Sunnydale Gets Red Cross Family Support Center

Funded by a \$218,000 grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services for a one year model program, the first Red Cross Family Support Center opened December 7 at 1704 Sunnydale Ave. American Red Cross (ARC) Bay Area Chapter had announced development of the Family Community Partnership Program based on the highly successful Red Cross Homelessness Prevention Program.

This partnership encompasses families living in two San Francisco public housing projects: Sunnydale and a second center opened in January at 1069 Connecticut Ave. on Potrero Hill where at least 100 families per year who fall behind in their payment of rent will also be assisted with a program of intensive case management and on site educational and community building activities.

ARC's Bay Area Chapter is well suited to carry out this program. It has been the fiscal agent for a 32-agency Homelessness Prevention Consortium in San Francisco since 1989, and it

has been the only agency to focus on residents in public housing. ARC Bay Area brings not only its model program of intensive case management to these new centers, but also a wide array of First Aid, CPR, Family Health and leadership training programs that ARC is known for nationwide.

"By locating Red Cross Family Support Centers in the public housing projects, and by employing staff at each site, the American Red Cross Bay Area will not only address the needs and family self-sufficiency plans of each family, but also the larger need of developing community support systems," said Martin Torow, director of Red Cross Community Social Services. "By linking up with existing organizations, religious congregations, and employment and training programs, the Red Cross Family Community Partnership will build and strengthen the community supports that enable families to become independent."

Until now, families in public housing who are delinquent in rent are targeted for eviction and do not receive services until homelessness is imminent. This project will empower residents with a program that includes money management, goal setting, and a variety of supportive services to not only help people maintain their housing, but to move toward a goal of economic self-sufficiency.

"It's exciting to see Health and Human Services funds used in such a groundbreaking way," said Grantland Johnson, regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Services will be provided to the families where they need it most: in their own backyard."

ARC Bay Area will bring the Red Cross principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality to this innovative project. For more information, contact Martin Torow of the ARC Bay Area Chapter at 202-0643.

Public Mural Walks

Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center offers a public mural walk every Saturday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. during February and March.

Mural walks are given by experienced muralists and preceded by a brief slide presentation on the history and process of mural art. Cost is \$4 general, \$3 for seniors and \$1 for children and students under 18 years. Call 285-2287 for more information.

Breaking Ground for Valley Ventures



Participants in the new Fresh Start Farm at VVMS include: (top l-r): Lwazi Kubukeli (Americorps), Tim Harris, Nick Crankshaw, Ms. Hickie, Latasha Kemp, Karin Donahan, Bryan Parangoa, (bottom l-r) Walter Mollinera, Ryan Parangoe and Daniel Afalava.

VVMS in Partnership With Fresh Start Farms

By Salvador Velasco

A promising transformation is developing at Visitacion Valley Middle School (VVMS). Fresh Start Farms and VVMS have formed a partnership creating a commercial farm on school grounds.

Students and their families will have the opportunity to learn farming and marketing skills, experience the joys of working with the earth and reap many other rewards throughout the year.

Please feel free to contact Lwazi Kubukeli or Trinh Nguyen in the VZ Kids office for more information.

KeySEC Joins with National PTA, Sets Meeting Dates

By Lisa Wichser

The VVMS association of parents, teachers and staff, students and community members, formed last year after VVMS was reconstituted, is called KeySEC - the Key Stakeholders in Education Council, so named because it potentially includes all persons who have a stake in quality education at the school.

At its monthly meeting on Wednes-

day, January 10, KeySEC formally joined the National PTA, and thus has a non-profit status so it can do fundraising without IRS troubles. All stakeholders in education are encouraged to join this important organization. Annual dues are \$5 for the first person in any family and \$2.50 for each additional family member.

You can join up in the VVMS from office, or at any KeySEC meeting. Meeting dates for the remainder of the year are: February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 5. All meetings are held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the school library.

Beacon Center Planners Continue to Seek Input

By Lisa Wichser

The Visitacion Valley Beacon Center is becoming more and more of a reality!

A series of meetings and community events have been held recently in order to gain a better understanding of what people in VZ Valley - students, parents, teachers, service providers, community members and merchants - want in the new Beacon Center that will open soon at VVMS.

What is Beacon? A beacon is a guiding light, and the Beacon Center will be a safe, welcoming place of fun, learning and sharing for the

whole community where the light will be on four up to 16 hours a day, seven days a week.

Depending on the requests of the community, the Beacon might offer before and after school tutoring, exercise and enrichment; resource center services, including job training, resume writing software help and job search assistance throughout the day; ESL classes for the whole family during the day and in the evening; and physical and mental wellness information. In addition, workshops and referrals; counseling and support groups, recreational programs and many other activities are being planned.

Exactly what will be going on at the VVMS Beacon will depend on what you and other members of the Visitacion Valley community tell us you want! So speak up now. Call or drop a note to: Lisa Wichser or Daniela Kirshenbaum at VVMS, 469-4590. And ask for and complete a Beacon Survey!

Goal Is Set for a Million Minutes of Reading

By Mary Price, Reading Specialist

One of our teachers' number one priorities is to promote reading at VVMS. As demonstrated by educational research, reading is a proven tool for academic success.

The VVMS staff have therefore come up with a plan called the *Million Minutes of Reading!* and it works like this: If your child does reading (about 1 1/2 hours per week), teachers will tally the reading each week. The goal is to tally a million minutes of reading done in class or at home by the entire student population.

Your child will have a reading log that you will be asked to sign regularly. As a parent or guardian, you can support our program by: encouraging the child to read daily; providing a quiet reading place; limiting television; and helping your child find books or other enjoyable reading material enjoyable to read at home.

The school or public librarian have lists of books that are appropriate for your child's interests and abilities.

VVMS teachers are planning many special events and activities in language arts and math classes to reward your child's increased reading, and our march towards increased literacy.

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SUNNYDALE FAMILY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Sunnydale Family Community Partnership program, 1704 Sunnydale Ave., provides services to low-income families supporting long-term housing stability and movement towards self-sufficiency.

Services Include:

"Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP): Identifying barriers to self-sufficiency; housing issues; education; employment; life skills and money management.

"On site educational training and community building activities.

Family Community Partnership Program will be developing community support systems.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Clients must be a San Francisco resident, on AFDC, have back rent issues and be living in their home at least 60 days.

ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Rental assistance is considered by a committee after 30 days of client participation in the program. Clients are expected to make a contribution toward their back rent.

Intake days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Call 584-3620.

Sunnydale Testing of Young Children For Environmental Lead Poisoning

By Nomsa Shange, M.D.

In recent year communities have become more aware of the many environmental factors which adversely affect their health. Toxic waste from power plants and industries, infectious agents such as microspora present in the water, and environmental exposure to lead, asbestos and other toxins are all real health threats. Among these, lead poisoning presents the greatest environmental hazard to young children.

Lead is a metal that is present everywhere in the environment throughout the City. In the past it was used in household paints and can be found in old paint on most San Francisco houses. In addition, until the 1980s it was used by plumbers as solder to weld together pipes. Lead is also used as pigments and stabilizers in some ceramics and glass.

Children become poisoned primarily by eating soil, dust or paint chips containing lead. Renovation, remodeling, sandblasting or demolition of housing increase the risk by releasing high levels of lead into the surrounding environment. Exposure may also occur by drinking water from homes which have lead in the plumbing, or by eating or drinking from ceramics or glass containing lead. In addition, certain folk medicines, such as the Mexican remedies azarcon and greta, may contain high amounts of lead.

Most children with lead poisoning have no symptoms. When symptoms occur, they are nonspecific and include irritability, tiredness, insomnia, loss of appetite, muscle pains and joint pains. The only way to know if a child has lead poisoning is by a special blood test. Because of this, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Public Health Service both recommend that all children under six years old be tested for lead.

Lead exerts its toxic effects on the nervous system, kidneys, reproductive organs and blood. Most concerning is that lead may damage the brains of

young children, causing a decrease in IQ and learning disabilities. These disabilities include difficulty with reading, writing, math, concentration, memory and language development. Stunted growth, behavioral problems and mental retardation may also be caused by lead poisoning. Additionally, lead may cause hearing loss, anemia, decreased sperm production and kidney damage.

The prevalence of lead poisoning is highest in low income African American children who live in large cities. This raises concerns that the large number of children falling in public schools and in the juvenile justice system may be related to the environmental toxin, and not just social and economic factors. Because lead poisoning often has no symptoms, it is imperative that all children under six years old receive a blood lead test. This is especially true of African American children living in high risk areas such as public housing.

Sunnydale housing complex is an area of high risk for lead exposure. It was built in 1941 when the use of lead-containing paint and lead solder in plumbing was standard. The soil on which it lies is loose and creates excessive amounts of dust.

There are more than 400 young children who play, roll, inhale and eat this dust daily. The possibility that lead from paint chips or lead in water from the plumbing is poisoning these children is great.

To address this issue, the San Francisco Childhood Lead Prevention Program, Universal Health for Africans and Sunnydale Tenants Association in cooperation with Health Center #3 will sponsor a free lead screening for children age 9 months - 6 years on Saturday, February 10 at the Sunnydale Medical Clinic, 1653 Sunnydale Ave. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All Sunnydale residents are encouraged to attend.

For more information on lead testing, contact your doctor or Childhood Lead Prevention Program at 554-8930.

THE GRAPEVINE MAILBOX



Law Clinics to Review Draft EIR on Hazardous Waste Plant Expansion

The following letter was sent to State Assemblyman John Burton and Field Representative Fiona Ma concerning the proposed expansion of the hazardous waste facility located adjacent to Little Hollywood.

Dear Assemblyman Burton and Ms. Ma:

I am writing about the concerns that the residents of our communities have about the ongoing problems of the adverse environmental impacts and the possible increase of these and other impacts that will be caused by the proposed expansion.

The community knows that the solid waste (garbage and trash), hazardous waste and recycling are necessary and a city could not function without these processes.

These facilities and operations should have not been allowed to be located directly adjacent to a residential district. There are approximately 370 homes in the community. This seems like blatant environmental racism. These type of operations and facilities could only occur in the southeast section of the City. It could not happen directly adjacent to any other residential district.

San Francisco has a large heavy industrial district and this must be developed into an industrial park, such as the industrial park in South San Francisco at the Oyster Point Marina. The garbage transfer station in the park is 2,400 feet from a residential district.

The recycle facilities are within 280 feet of the houses at its northwest boundary, the hazardous waste facility is less than 500 feet and the garbage transfer facility is less than 375 feet at the Tunnel/Beatty complex.

There is an alternative location presented in the draft environmental impact report (EIR).

The entire complex is approximately 44 acres: the area of the complex that is within San Francisco county is approximately 21 acres; and the available area of the land for the actual processing is approximately 11 acres. The City of Brisbane will not allow processing of any kind on the half of the complex that is within its jurisdiction.

A hazardous waste siting ordinance was adopted by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors in October 1995. The ordinance will allow a hazardous waste facility to be sited in almost any area of an M2 heavy industrial district. Highway 280 has been reopened. These conditions are now corrections to what has been previously large negative impacts against relocation. The health risk assessment has to be site specific, but the majority of the assessment has more to do with the chemicals than the actual site.

Over 550 residents of the community have signed the resolution against the expansion and for the relocation of the operations and facilities. Our committee is trying for a goal of 90 percent of the community signing the resolution. This community is tired of the adverse environmental effects that the complex has created and we have been forced to tolerate.

The mitigation measures recommended in the draft EIR will never come close to solving the problems that are already here and cannot correct a siting that should not have occurred in the first place.

The Berkeley Environmental Law Clinic and Golden Gate University Environmental Law Clinic have agreed to review the draft EIR for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance.

A refinance home mortgage company has already asked to review the draft EIR before giving a loan. Homeowners have moved and more of our houses are now used as rentals. Property value and home maintenance have been spiraling downward. The increased volume of hazardous waste storage and mount that is processes could raise our fire insurance and health insurance.

There is no room at the complex for future expansion and with a life span of 30 years, any new construction would be a waste of rate payer funds since they will ultimately pay for the proposed expansion. A conservative estimate would be \$30 million.

The community would appreciate

any advice or assistance that you could provide.

Thank you for your time,
Ralph Oroquita

Why the Videotape?

An initial January 18 meeting between Norcal, William H. Thompson, a professional facilitator hired by Norcal to mediate discontent by local residents to the proposed expansion of the adjacent hazardous waste facility, and members of the Little Hollywood and Visitacion Valley communities further demonstrated unanimous opposition by those living around the complex to its functions. The following letter was sent by Ralph Oroquita of the Little Hollywood Committee to Thompson Company, Inc. regarding the January 18 meeting.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I have discussed the meeting with members of our committee. The meeting was between the communities, City agencies and Norcal/ Sanitary Fill Company employees and representatives. The fact that the meeting would be videotaped was not in the written material or oral conversations prior to the meeting and we were at a disadvantage by not knowing about this.

Our committee has no way of knowing if or when any Norcal representatives will be reviewing these tapes. We do not know how these tapes might be used and we have not signed any releases to their use. The only above reproach way to handle this matter is that Norcal, our committee and your committee have copies.

The only other alternative is that you will send us a notarized letter stating that no one with any affiliation or who represents Norcal/ Sanitary Fill Company has not and will not review those tapes.

If our committee does not receive the copies of the meeting tapes or the notarized letter, then we feel that it will be inappropriate for our committee to participate in any future meetings. Our committee will advise other members of the surrounding communities to refrain from attending any future meetings because our communities will be at a disadvantage in preparing for such meetings.

The Little Hollywood Committee would like to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,
Ralph Oroquita

Warning Signs of Cardiovascular Disease

Cardiovascular disease is the primary cause of death and disability in America today. About 18,000 residents of the nine-county Bay Area - 39 percent - a year die of cardiovascular disease and last year alone it cost the nation an estimated \$137.7 billion in health care. Many lives are needlessly lost and impaired because people do not know the warning signs of heart attack and stroke and wait too long to seek help at the onset of symptoms.

Each February during American Heart Month, the American Heart Association (AHA) launches a nationwide educational campaign relating to cardiovascular disease. For February 1996 the educational message is: "Don't die of embarrassment."

The average heart attack victim waits at least one hour before seeking medical help. Why? Often, he or she is afraid to face the possibility of something as serious as a heart attack or stroke or does not want to risk the embarrassment of a false alarm.

Consequently, some 250,000 people a year die of heart attack within one hour of the onset of symptoms and before they reach the hospital. Many others who survive reduce their chances of full recovery and compromise their quality of life by waiting too long to get medical care.

It is important to know the warning signs of heart attack and stroke. The symptoms of heart attack are uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back; pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck or arms; chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

Warning signs of stroke are sudden weakness or numbness on one side of the body; loss of speech or trouble talking or understanding others; sudden dimness or loss of vision, particularly in one eye; sudden, severe headaches with no apparent cause and unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or

sudden falls, especially along with any of the symptoms mentioned above.

Why is getting immediate medical help so important? "In the case of heart attack, time is muscle," said Steven L. Blumlein, M.D. "The longer blood does not flow to the heart, the longer the heart muscle is deprived of oxygen. Without oxygen, the muscle tissue dies."

Medical personnel can administer thrombolytic drugs, which open up the arteries and release the flow of blood. These drugs have their maximum effectiveness within the first two hours of a heart attack.

"Those who wait too long to get medical help, but survive their attack may find their remaining years and quality of life drastically reduced because only a portion of their heart is able to pump the blood their body needs," said Blumlein.

With 4.2 million volunteers, AHA is dedicated to reducing disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Since 1983, February has been designated as American Heart Month by a presidential proclamation to recognize the continuing fight against heart disease and stroke.

State's Democrats Claim GOP Agenda Biased

Members of the Assembly Democratic Caucus are claiming the new right wing Republican agenda will result in mean-spirited, biased public policy that will fly in the face of the real California agenda.

"The Republican agenda is about bed bills," said Democratic Assembly Leader Richard Katz. "It may be cloaked in family values and reform, but instead it tilts toward the wealthy and big business. It is biased against consumers, access to quality public education, environmental protections, worker safety and paying people just compensation for extra hours worked."

Joining Katz were the former chairpersons of key policy committees, each providing comparisons on issues and positions held by the Democrats and Republicans, and how the new extremist agenda will hurt California.

Early in January, Republicans, by one vote took control of the Assembly including the Rules Committee, which assigns committee chairpersons and members. Twenty-five of the 26 Assembly committees are now chaired by Republicans, despite a written power-sharing agreement enacted by the two parties in January 1995 which stated there would be an equitable division of Republicans and Democrats on committees.

By David Assmann
S.F. Recycling Program

1995 was an important year for recycling in California. A state law - AB 939 - passed in 1989, requires every city and county in the state, including San Francisco, to reduce waste by one-quarter by 1995 and cut waste in half by 2000 through waste prevention, reuse and recycling. The good news is that we are ahead of the 1995 target - we estimate that we are currently at about a 30 percent rate. However, in order to meet our target by the end of the decade, we need to reduce San Francisco's waste by an additional 400 million pounds a year.

Residential waste accounts for less than one-third of the waste generated in the City (about 600 million pounds a year) and we're currently recycling about one-quarter of that amount. Last year we recycled about 95 million pounds of material through curbside and apartment recycling - that's more than the combined weight of every resident of San Francisco! Revenue rose by more than \$1.6 million last year, but volume dropped by about nine million pounds (due to increased scavenging - thanks to higher prices for recyclables).

Newspaper remained at the top of the list of materials recycled, making up 69 percent of all recyclables collected. The next most recycled material was glass, accounting for 21 percent of the total. The average participating household recycled 570 pounds of recyclables in 1995, including 393 pounds of newspaper (that's a 12 foot high stack of newspapers), 199 pounds of glass (equivalent to 237 bottles), 32 pounds of other paper (equivalent to more than 1,000 pieces of junk mail), 12.5 pounds of tin/steel cans, nine pounds of plastic bottles and two pounds of aluminum cans.

Special promotional campaigns to promote recycling were held in the Richmond and the Sunset (reducing garbage by more than half a million pounds over a three month period) as well as in the northeastern section of the City (Telegraph Hill, North Beach, Nob Hill, Russian Hill, Polk Gulch and the Marina). More than 20,000 households were called during the campaigns.

1995 was also a good year for the San Francisco Home Composting Program: 700 people were trained in hands-on composting workshops,

more than 1,600 purchased home composting bins, 9,000 visited the Compost Education Center at the Garden for the Environment and more than 5,000 called the Hotline (285-7584) for information while 1,400 students were educated about composting through field trips and in-class presentations. The home composting program is funded by the San Francisco Recycling Program and implemented by the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners.

Other 1995 recycling highlights included:

"The seventh annual phone book recycling campaign, which resulted in the collection of more than 2.2 million pounds of telephone books (more than 850,000 books).

"The designation of San Francisco as a Recycling Market Development Zone by the state of California. Services now available for businesses include low interest loans of up to \$1 million; technical assistance in obtaining recycled feedstock, financing, permits and elites; access to City loans, grants and tax credits; and referrals to business plan and management assistance.

"The addition of all #1 and #2 plastic bottles and aluminum foil as recyclable items for curbside and apartment recycling.

"The unveiling of our new photogra-

phy exhibit at War Memorial Hall. This educational booth, featuring the work of award winning photographer Malcolm Lubliner, shows three different recycling cycles (paper, glass and construction materials).

"The continuing campaign to educate students about waste prevention and recycling in 1995 including organizing 60 class field trips, conducting 75 class presentations, participating in 15 school fairs and other events, and sending out 10,000 copies of our newsletter to San Francisco teachers.

"Receiving the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRRA) award for best public education program in the state of California.

"Awarding \$350,000 in grants to 14 nonprofit groups for innovative waste prevention and recycling projects through a new grants program. Projects include a "building leaders" recycling network to promote waste prevention and recycling in Chinatown, setting up a medical equipment and supplies exchange program, and a mobile landscape waste chipping service. These programs are expected to result in the diversion of an additional eight million pounds of material.

"Recycling more than 55,000 Christmas trees in our annual tree recycling campaign.

Next month I'll tell you about some of the highlights for 1996.

SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY EXPANSION ON TUNNEL AVENUE

Regular Meeting, February 6, 1996, 7 p.m.
Brisbane Fire Station, 3445 Bayshore Blvd.,
Brisbane (at Valley on east side of Bayshore)

Functions of Hazardous Materials Team

Further Information: 558-6319, or
Don Bertone, Chair: 467-9669

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Visitacion Valley Middle School on the Move !

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Calendars with Chinese Photos on Sale Soon

By Lisa Wichser

In order to raise funds for the school, VVMS students and KeySEC members will sell calendars with beautiful photographs of China. These calendars make excellent Chinese New Year presents! The school will sell them for \$6, but the original price from the distributor was \$12. What a deal! Stop in at the front office to purchase yours or to sign up as a salesperson. Top salespersons will receive recognition and prizes.

Helping a Child at Home

by Kay Nomura,
Assistant Principal

These are a few parent tips:

*Provide a quiet well-lit space for your child to do homework at home. Make homework time a routine. If your child does not have homework, make this a time to read a book or the newspaper.

*Read with your child. Choose a book together or the newspaper and discuss what you have read. Join the Million Minutes of Reading! project.

*Turn off the TV one evening each week.

Viz Kids Running Afro-Brazilian Workshop

By Yehuda ben-Asher

For the past seven weeks, Viz Kids has been running a new Afro-Brazilian drum workshop lead by master instrument maker and percussionist Joel Wolk. Wolk said that students are hungry for this folkloric music, and that on a weekly basis is impressed by the listening and playing skills that these VVMS students possess.

The workshop takes place on Friday mornings. Roosevelt Watson, a VVMS student, said of one workshop, "I feel the beat of the maracas and I feel good. I'd like to learn music." His brother Wardell Watson agreed, "...I feel good hearing all the different kinds of music. I enjoyed the workshop."

VVMS staff members agreed. Cecilia Bowman, who works in the Viz Kids office said that last week's music, which emanated from one of the classrooms to her room, was very contagious. "The Latin rhythms made me want to dance," said Bowman.

Head of the Viz Kids program Daniella Kinsheraum also said that the music was inspiring. "This drum

workshop is beyond my expectation."

Other student members who attended the workshop include Nygil Williams, Wardell and Roosevelt Watson. Peter Matuahingano, Elisara Tafo, Ryan and Bryan Parungao, Michael Leary and Latoya Houghton have also attended.

VVMS Students Visit Turner Construction

On January 9, five Visitacion Valley middle schools went to the Turner Construction headquarters located on Sacramento Street in the financial district. The following students were selected by their teachers based on their academic and classroom behavior: Diane Thomas and Wai Ming Tsang (8th graders), Joyce Tam (7th grader), Sheng Chen and Curtis Jones (8th graders).

The students were given an orientation to the jobs and staff of Turner Construction. A tour of the offices followed and then the pairing of students with staff members. The students had an opportunity to learn about engineering, accounting, interior design, construction supervision and monitoring, and architectural design. After the job "shadowing," the students were treated to a pizza lunch.

Turner Construction is Visitacion Valley Middle School's Adopt-A-School partner. Besides hosting the career awareness program, Turner employees have come to the school and worked with Mr. Holmes' 6th grade Community Service class. They are also in the process of making the school store.

Teachers and Students Take Their First Steps To Successful Planting

By Trinh Nguyen
and Lwazi Kubukeli,
Service Coordinators

The teachers and students who helped out removing crab grass from the garden located on school grounds should be proud that they helped improve and manage the soil for future planting.

Ms. Keith, Mr. Garzelloni, Ms. Hickie and their students volunteered their time pulling out grass from the garden. They have all promised a long-term involvement in this project.

In a couple of months, the school will be able to sow seeds to plant cucumbers.

This exciting venture will benefit the school economically and bring the entire community closer to the school. VVMS staff encourages the

community to get involved in serving with the setup and maintenance of the farm. Please contact service coordinators Lwazi Kubukeli and Trinh Nguyen in the Viz Kids office for additional information.

Service Learning Projects

By Trinh Nguyen
and Lwazi Kubukeli,
Service Coordinators

Many exciting projects are being created at our school to expand the range of activities offered. One of them is the cross-age tutoring project.

VVMS students love tutoring other students who are younger and who still attend elementary school. Since its inception, the cross-age tutoring project has been embraced with support by both students and teachers who immediately began working to make things happen.

Mr. Garzelloni, Ms. Hickie and Ms. Holmes have all been involved in this project. The students who have been able to participate have shown a lot of enthusiasm and dedication to the students they are tutoring.

Another upcoming project is the Earth Week Cleanup which is scheduled for the week of April 15-19. Teachers, students and the community will help clean up the school and its surrounding area.

In addition, our talented art teacher, Cynthia Clark is helping design a tile project. The vision for this project is to give an outlet for students to express themselves by permanently leaving their ideas on tile. The tile project may become a yearly tradition at VVMS if students and teachers are willing to put the effort into making the project successful its first year. Feel free to contact the school for more information.

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES

14: KeySEC Meeting; 15: Valentine Day Dance; 16: Staff Development Day (no school); 19: Lunar New Year Holiday; 26: African American Honor Roll Parade

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

February 2: at L. Burbank; 7: at Aptos; 9: vs. Glenn; 15: at J. Denman; 21 vs. M.L. King; 23 vs. J. Lick.

SOCCER SCHEDULE

(Ask Dr. Flores about soccer practice games.)

February 2: vs. Glenn at Crocker 2; 8: vs. J. Lick at Crocker 2; 8: vs. M.L. King at Crocker 2; 13: vs. Hoover at Crocker 2; 15: at L. Burbank at Crocker 2; 21: at J. Denman at Crocker 1; 23: at Aptos at W. Sunset 1



Burglars smashed and forced their way into the church, taking a sound system from the pulpit before breaking into the choir's dressing room and removing valuables.

Church Burglary

From Page 1

the Visitacion Valley Task Force and Enterprise Community. Chao told the teachers that proper representation on peace and order, and neighborhood safety be made as early as January 29 with Mayor Willie Brown, who was scheduled to meet with the Enterprise Community at the Valley Senior Center. Chao had earlier

been notified of the meeting by Julie Kavanagh, the Community Center's executive director.

The January 29 meeting of the Enterprise Community was the organization's second during January at the Senior Center. At its January 5 meeting, an issue of conflict of interest, as is related to membership and voting at the Enterprise Community, was discussed and resolved.

Phone Book Recycling Sets a New Record

San Francisco's telephone book recycling program remains one of the most successful such efforts in the country. more than 2.3 million pounds of telephone books were collected in the city in 1995 for recycling. Forty-five percent of Pacific Bell's Directory's outdated White and Smart Yellow Pages from City residents and businesses were recycled during the year - up from forty percent in 1994. Outdated books were collected by Norcal Waste Systems, other private companies and nonprofit recycling centers.

Residents recycled more than 500,000 books in 1995 and more than 330,000 books were collected from commercial establishments. Telephone directories can be recycled all

Senior Valentine Dance

All senior citizens are invited to attend a free Senior Citizen's Valentine's Day Dance on Wednesday, February 14, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the San Francisco County Fair Building on 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way. Featured will be live music of the Maury Wolohan Band.

WHO TO CALL...

- *Emergency (life threatening) 9-1-1
- *Non-emergency Dispatch 553-0123
- *Parking Complaints 553-1200
- *Abandoned Cars 781-JUNK
- *Security Survey/ 673-SAFE
- Neighborhood Watch
- *Narcotics Tips (anon) 800-CRACKIT
- *Landlord/Tenant Disputes 554-9550
- *Community Boards 863-6100
- *Domestic Violence 864-4722
- *Suicide Prevention 221-1423
- *Stray, Abused Animals 554-6364
- *Dumped Items (DPW) 695-2017
- *Graffiti Cleanup (DPW) 241-WASH

AT RANDALL MUSEUM

Sign-ups begin 12:30 for 1 p.m. classes. Space is limited. No organized groups please. Some spaces can be reserved for members - call 554-9600 for information. Young Audiences Arts Card holders receive a 2 for 1 discount. \$4-10 a person sliding scale. Please Note: Adults must also pay the class fee and accompany all children under 8.

FEB. 3: Chinese Lion Head Puppet, 1 p.m. Make a puppet to bring good fortune and scare away evil.

FEB. 10: Pop-Up Murals, 1 p.m. Make a mural to illustrate roll of African Americans

in U.S. history.

FEB. 17: Black Folk Art - Heroes in Our Lives, 1 p.m. Use unusual materials to make a sculpture recognizing the heroes in your life.

FEB. 24: "Listen to This Story," 1 p.m. Stories in honor of African contributions in America.

FAMILY CERAMICS

There is a Family Ceramics hour each Saturday in February at 10 a.m.

FREE ON SATURDAYS

Animal Feeding at 12 noon; Animal Talk at 2:15 p.m.; Model Railroad Exhibit on second and fourth Saturday, 12:30-5 p.m.; Children's Train Day, Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Mayor Willie Brown delivered his inaugural address at Yerba Buena Gardens on January 8 before a crowd of more than 6,000 people.

An Opinion:
After Impressive Inaugural Celebration,
Mayor Now Faces Complicated City

By Gerry L. Galvan

Willie Brown, the mayoral candidate, was projected as the man who could inject a "new beginning" in the city of San Francisco. He attracted the attention of a wide range of ethnic groups, and political and social values. Brown endeared himself even to some well-heeled Republicans who, together with a considerable number of independent-minded citizens, gave him an all-out support. As Dennis Normandy, one of the most articulate Republican partymen in the city said, "We're throwing our support to Willie Brown because he's the man who can make things happen."

I couldn't and never bought what Brown and his supporters were saying about his "leadership." As a citizen and voter, I felt offended by his political and professional style. As a Republican, I knew it was incumbent upon me to help thwart his goal of becoming mayor. As a newsman, I owed it to myself to write as objectively as I could on the merits or weaknesses of the "poor lad" from Mineola, Texas.

Willie Lewis Brown, Jr. won easily over his strongest rival. He gave Frank Jordan the political contest of

voters' religiosity. His choreographed long distance phone conversation with Bill Clinton was pure politics. The fireworks and the long toasting at the finest restaurant at Pier 45 were all part of a drama reflective of the Hollywood format for which Mr. Brown has been well known all his 32-year political career.

Willie Lewis Brown, Jr. carried the ball very well. Obviously, there was no fumble on the first three carries. He successfully achieved three first downs during Day One.

Willie Brown's Day Two, January 9, was relatively quiet. Except for minor rumblings at the fire department, Brown's appointee as police chief, Robert L. Deammons, was just starting to get a feel of being chief there. At the police department his appointee as police chief, Fred Lau, demonstrated his forte as duty-delegator. He immediately assigned captains to key posts in the city. That was one masterful stroke by the 24-year police veteran.

However, Lau's and Deammons' boss, who's none other than Willie Brown, made his fumble when he told CBS/KCBS correspondent Mike Sugarmann that the mayor's salary of \$139,000 a year was too small and that he was having difficulty attracting top-flight executives to fill in the jobs at City Hall.

At that point, the flamboyant politician from Mineola, Texas lost the ball and has not recovered it. His opponents picked it for a touchdown, so to speak.

It Mr. Brown continues fumbling the ball, he will find himself very much behind before this four-year term comes to its end! Come November 9, 1999, when the next mayoral election is held, he would have scored a very minimal number of points as compared to that of his opponents who would be scoring heavily on fumble recoveries/ touchdowns. His reelection chances will surely be slim. Perhaps that suits him well. He turns 65 that time around. It's time for him to retire.

Two important points need bringing up here: 1) Willie Lewis Brown, Jr. had known long before that the mayor's salary has been \$139,000 a year, yet he ran for mayor; and 2) his predecessors survived on the "meager" amount, and they succeeded in hiring top flight assistants. So Mr. Brown could be a wrong choice for mayor should he fall where his successors succeeded.

Black History Month at Exploratorium

In *Inspiring Black Scientists and Inventors*, a special video presentation on view (Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) in honor of Black History Month, Exploratorium Explainers reflect inspiration they have gleaned and incorporated into their lives as a result of African American scientists and their work.

Explainers are high school students of diverse backgrounds who serve as the sole museum guides to the Exploratorium. This program has become a model for hundreds of similar museums convinced that teenagers make good teachers.

The discoveries of black scientists and inventors have been incorporated into Exploratorium exhibits, most notably the work of experimental physicist James West, co-inventor of foil-electrets which help convert sounds into electrical signals - in hearing aids, memory telephones and smart information terminals.

THE 39 STEPS

How is it that when you start thinking about something, or talking about something, a few minutes later your mind and conversation have wandered someplace 10,000 miles away? The 39 Steps, an installation on display from February 10 to March 3 by multimedia artist John Sanborn, explores this highly subjective nature of memory - "the way a word, color or smell can trigger dozens of mental associations" - as well as the shared experience of bringing meaning to the meaning of the unconscious.

The 39 Steps combines video, computers and storytelling in a new form of narrative, one that inspires alternative ways of thinking about how we think and remember. It is a kind of movie of your own making, intricately weaving together stories told by hundreds of everyday people from all walks of life: their experiences of love, death, fear, hate and beauty.

OPEN PRESIDENT'S DAY

Normally closed on Mondays, the Exploratorium will be open President's Day, February 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 563-7337 for more information.

African American Women on Tour

Some of the country's most dynamic empowerment speakers will join African American Women on Tour (AAWOT) when it visits Oakland March 28-30 with more than 30 workshops focusing close to the homes and hearts of African American women, including career and business development, relationships, financial management, health and spirituality.

Nationally renowned authors Alice Walker (*The Color Purple*, *The Temple of My Familiar*), BeBe Moore Campbell (*Your Blues Ain't Like Mine*, *Brothers & Sisters*) and Iyanla Vanzant (*Acts of Faith*, *The Value in the Valley*) will speak, along with George Fraser, 560-2298.

author of *Success Runs in Our Race* and publisher of *SuccessGuide* (a series of resource directories highlighting Black Businesses and professionals around the country), who will conduct a workshop on the principles and practices of effective networking; Bonnie St. John Deane, author and former Olympic ski medalist; and Stephanie Stokes-Oliver, editor-in-chief of *Heart & Soul Magazine*.

"Our concern is the total wellness of black women - mind, body and spirit," explained Maria Carothers, executive producer of AAWOT.

For further information, call (800)

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Pat Crocker : Director

Wedding of the Waters
By Craig Carrozzi



Craig is on a boat navigating along the Amazon River destined for the Brazilian city of Manaus.

BOAT LIFE (PART 1)

As the first gray silvers of dawn filtered into the hold, the cook slipped from his hammock and entered the galley. I was right on his heels to use the bathroom. After, I went to the stern, sat on the edge and dangled my bare feet into the wash kicked up by the propeller. Despite having slept poorly, I felt wonderfully alive and enjoyed the cool sensation of the water rushing between my toes.

The cook emerged from the galley and went to the sink to fill a coffee pot with water. I watched him warily. He greeted me with a grimace that could have been a smile. I grinned and nodded to him. He filled the pot, the excess water draining over the side through a rubber hose, and returned to the galley without a word. At least he's not as hostile as he was last night, I thought. I guess he's resigned to my presence.

I put the cook from my mind and squinted out over the expanse of water at my feet. The surface was gently ruffled and gray, with silver dapples. My eyes rose to the sea of vegetation that stretched to the horizon. So green and mysterious, I thought. What secrets are contained in its depths? ... Then the sun caught my eye - a red-orange ball lifting free of the jungle's verdant bosom and scattering fleecy clouds on the way to its post in the heavens. Meanwhile, the sky, like a white-spotted chameleon, changed from a dank gray to a very light blue that was almost indistinguishable from the color of the river.

I gazed in sublimina wonder, at peace with myself and ready for the new day. That was gorgeous, I thought. I hope I can preserve this image in my mind forever. I've always loved a pretty sunrise and the early morning softness. A time of regeneration and fresh hopes - a moment to savor before the uncertainty of another day ...

How Beautifull No?

I wheeled, startled from my reverie by a soft voice behind me. It was Fernando. We looked at each other and smiled.

Yes, I said. It was very beautiful.

Fernando excused himself to use the bathroom and I turned to face the river. The wind picked up and whipped the chill from the water into the air. I

shivered and took my feet out of the water. I was still cold. I went inside to get a shirt.

When I returned to the stern, I found Fernando, the cook and three Brazilian sailors sipping hot coffee.

Good morning, I said in Portuguese.

The Brazilians nodded their heads and mumbled, Bom dia.

Do you want cafe da manha (breakfast)? the cook asked me.

I nodded. He handed me an enameled tin cup with smoke curling from the rim and motioned for me to help myself from a can of crackers sitting on the red oil drum. For the moment I ignored the crackers and slurped the black coffee. Ah! I scaled my tongue. But I relished the heavily sweetened liquid as it went down and warmed my insides.

Aren't you going to eat? asked Fernando, smiling, cracker crumbs dripping from his lips.

Yes. After I drink my coffee.

Fernando chatted with me in Spanish. The sailors looked on uncomfortably, almost suspiciously. I watched them out of the corner of my eye. They spoke quietly among themselves - simple, work-toughened men with lean, well-proportioned bodies and guileless faces. Two of them were short and stocky like the cook; the other, who wore bright green bermude shorts, was about my height, six foot. They don't look unfriendly, I thought. Just a bit self-conscious.

Fernando smeared a cracker with margarine and passed it to me. I bit into it. The cracker was dry and tasteless; the margarine made it go down easier and gave it some flavor. The cook came around with a large thermos and gave us a second cup of coffee. In minutes, we devoured every cracker in the can.

Is that all for breakfast? Fernando asked one of the sailors.

He nodded.

I hope we have more and better for lunch, Fernando commented to me.

Me too.

While we drank our coffee, I remained relatively quiet. After my exhilaration from the sunrise passed, the lingering effects of the turbulent night caught up to me and left me flat. The sailors were equally taciturn. Fernando talked to everyone but received terse responses. After the second cup of potent coffee, however, the caffeine took hold and our eyelids lifted a notch

higher. Soon, thanks to the efforts of Fernando, through the simple device of exchanging the names of common objects and obscene words in three languages, our reticence started to break down. The cook joined in and told a few jokes. Though his extremely nesalized Portuguese was unintelligible to Fernando and I, we laughed along with the sailors as the cook capered on the bow and made weird facial expressions. We were getting along quite well. Then I noticed Jaap and Bettl stirring in their hammocks.

Better get over here, I called to Jaap in English, jokingly. The food's almost gone.

Jaap hustled over to the stern at once, scowling suspiciously. Where's my breakfast? he demanded in Spanish. Where my breakfast for me and my woman? I pay.

The cook eyed him stantly. What did you say? I don't understand. What?

Breakfast ... Food. Food for us. Jaap said in a milder tone.

The cook grunted and entered the galley.

Jaap stood nonplussed.

He's lucky the cook didn't understand him at first, I thought. Or he might have got tossed overboard.

Vat's going on? Jaap asked me in English. You already hat eaten?

Yes.

We hat a right to our share of the food. We paid the fare.

Relax, man. He probably went into the kitchen to get you guys something. What do you expect? Breakfast in bed?

Jaap muttered something in Dutch and calmed down. A few minutes later the cook handed Jaap a cup of coffee and brought out a new tin of crackers. Thank you, said Jaap, smiling.

The cook grunted.

Bettl, called Jaap. Bettl. Come here ...

Bettl shambled over, causing a stir among the sailors. She wore a thin, almost transparent pullover nightie.

The cook greeted Bettl with a gentle smile and special deference. He offered her coffee. She refused.

Water, she said. Hot water. Water?

The cook went to get her water and Bettl pulled a packet of tea from her knit bag.

What kind of tea is that? I asked her.

It is mint tee ... Coffee is bad for one. This keeps me healthy.

The cook gava Bettl her cup of hot water. Jaap settled down by the sink and dangled his feet into the water. Bettl sat next to him, Indian fashion. The sailors would look toward her, amazement etched on their faces, and then look nervously away, as one might when seeing an accident victim on the street. Bettl seemed oblivious to these half-curious, half-scandalized

VISITACION VALLEY GRAPEVINE - FEBRUARY 1996 - 5

glances. She daintily sipped her tea and dazed at the river. I glanced from the sailors to Bettl to my feet, chuckling under my breath. What a show for these guys, I thought. I wonder if they're aroused by her sexually or horrified by her undernourished appearance ... I'm more struck by her bony body ... and her lack of sensitivity. Or maybe ignorance is a better word. I mean, it might be all right to parade around almost naked in front of strangers in Holland ... but it sure isn't here. Especially in front of sailors on a cramped ship ... This is the tropics. The people are volatile. I hope she gets a clue somewhere along the line. Maybe I should give her a friendly warning. Nah, I get the feeling they'd resent any advice. Let's see what develops.

We loitered on the stern, sipping coffee and shooting the breeze. The sailors seemed particularly sluggish. These three must have been on the night watch, I thought. I know how they feel.

After a while, Bettl shivered in the cool breeze. She got up and went to her hammock. She returned wearing jeans and a woolen shirt. The show was over. The sailors, as if on cue, left the stern and went to get their toothbrushes. The passengers did the same. Soon we were all assembled on the stern, scooping water from the river with our hands to rinse our mouths and spouting streams of white into the muddy brown water over the side. It was like a ritual of sorts. I was careful not to keep the water from spilling down my throat. No telling what kind of funky microbes this water has, I thought.

After brushing, everyone dispersed to different parts of the boat. I hustled over to my sleeping niche and grabbed a towel from my travel bag; I wanted to get into the bathroom and take a shower before someone beat me to it. I rushed over to the bathroom, ducked inside and fastened the latch. Made it, I thought ... Darn it's rank in here! Whoever used the bathroom last must have been eating a lot of beans lately.

I looked around. The bathroom was the size of a small closet. The toilet bowl took about half of the space and a small sink took most of the rest. The shower nozzle hung over the toilet and came to the level of my chest. A sewer drain in the middle of the floor completed the all-purpose water closet.

What a joke, I thought. How am I going to get comfortable to take a decent scrubbing? Let's see ...

I held my nose with one hand, turned on the shower with the other, bent from the waist and ducked my head under the shower flow. The sink jammed against my rear; my contorted posture caused pain to shoot through my lower back. Only a few stray drops of water reached my lower body. This isn't working, I thought. About the only thing I'm doing is screwing up my back.

I straightened up and stared at the shower nozzle. What do I do? Wait ... Now I know.

I sat on the toilet and let the water cascade over my head and upper torso. The water was cold and pleasant. I leaned back against the wall and propped my feet on the sink. I stretched my legs out. Now I luxuriated. I grabbed the soap and sudsed up, taking my time. I shampooed my dirty stringy oily hair. Someone rapped on the door.

One moment, I called.

I rinsed off and turned off the shower. I rose and ran my hand over my damp hair and scalp. What the ... My hair was no longer oily - it was sandy. This darn river water, I thought. I should have known better. It's too silty. My hair feels like I've been wrestling with someone on the beach. If I keep taking showers, I'll be able to plant a flower on top of my head. Guess I won't be shampooing my hair for a while.

I stalked out of the bathhouse with a towel wrapped around my waist. No one was waiting at the door. Great, I thought. I hurried for nothing. My sandy scalp itched, irritating me further. Then the water pump switched on, that infernal mechanical stutter combining with the engine noise; the sound bored into my head. I clapped my hands over my ears. I can't take this! It's either going to make me deaf or drive me to the edge of insanity - whichever comes first. I have to find some relief from this ... Fast!

Fernando approached me, smiling and pointing toward the forward of the ship. His lips were moving.

I can't hear you, I shouted.

He cupped his hands around his mouth and yelled into my ear. Let's go climb over the wood to the front and of the flat. It's much quieter there - and there is an unobstructed view of everything.

What a good idea! I exclaimed, patting him on the back. You go

ahead. I'll join you soon. After I change my clothes.

Fernando turned and left. I went over to my travel bag and rummaged through it, looking for a clean shirt. Nothing. I began tossing my stuff out of the bag and onto the floor. I dug down to the bottom of the bag before finding a reasonably fresh shirt. Time to find a laundry, I thought. I slipped on the shirt and basketball shorts. I stuffed everything back into the bag and dumped it under Fernando's hammock. I was on my way out when the chubby Brazilian girl descended the ladder and stepped in front of me. She jabbered something at me.

I stared at her, a silly grin on my face. She repeated her message.

Speak slower, I said. I don't understand.

She flailed her arms and repeated once again. I strained my ears in concentration but I still couldn't understand her. Two missing teeth near the front of her mouth made her words come out in a whistling lisp.

Don't you understand me? she asked. What is your problem?

My face burned. I felt stupid. One more time.

She shook her head and windmilled her arms. The captain ... the captain wants ...

Finally I understood, more from her emphatic gestures than anything else, that the captain wanted to speak to me and was waiting above deck in his cabin.

The captain wants to talk to me? I asked her.

Exactly.

Thanks.

This has to be about money, I thought. I returned to my travel bag and picked out my passport. I extracted \$1,000 cruzieros from my money belt and folded it in my right hand. In case he tries to con me and charges me more than the other passengers, I'll be ready, I thought. I'll lay this money on him before he even tells me the price.

As I climbed the ladder to the upper deck, the engine drone diminished and bright sunlight bathed my eyes. After the darkness of the hold, I was momentarily blinded; I blinked my eyes several times. Things swam into focus. I saw the captain leaning against the railing outside his cabin. He was staring at the river and seemed lost in thought.

In the light of day he doesn't seem so impressive, I thought. He was short and his body looked soft. He wore the same tight burgandy turtleneck as the night before, which accentuated his pot belly, white slacks and leather sandals.

I scuffed the deck with my foot to catch his attention and stepped forward. The captain turned and called out a greeting. His eyes, brown and alert, ran over me at a glance. His face was dark and clean shaven, with sagging jowls and an easy going disolute look about it. His close cropped black hair receded from his high forehead. Man, I thought, this guy looks like he does some heavy partying.

How are you? he asked cordially, giving my hand a firm shake. He motioned toward his cabin. We can talk in here.

We went inside. The cabin was dark and very small, with barely enough space for the two of us to stand between a combination desk-easel and a compact bunk. The captain reached across the desk and pulled open the red curtains, revealing a sliding glass window that opened to the pilot's cabin. One of the mates was at the wheel. He turned and nodded to us. Light splashed onto the desk; it was littered with maps, papers and shiny nautical instruments.

The captain engaged me with small talk as he shuffled through some papers on the desk. I scanned the interior of the cabin. It was done primarily in crimson and black, and remained gloomy despite the light coming through the window. Portraits of naked mulatto women, in erotic poses, leered at me from the walls. The bunk was covered with a crimson spread and the night lamp had a red bulb. The air reeked of masculine cologne.

Do you have a passport? asked the captain.

Wordlessly, I placed it on the desk. He ignored it for the moment and continued sorting through the pile of papers in front of him. At last he sighed with satisfaction and held up a travel form of some kind. He opened my passport and examined it. Then he asked me a few questions, writing my replies on the travel form.

See Page 6

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Crossword
Solution

From Page 6

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• AN • IA •
• SO • PEN •
• A • DOT • T •
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SEAS • EDEN
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A E E O B I R R A O E G D I L O O C A C
R N R B U C H A N A N B S I A H E Y N I
E I A U U O T S J C E C G B S T L H Y N
W E R M B S G H A T L E V E S O O R D T
O S R H U N H D C W E I E A M O N D E T
H T N S N R A E K S L C F T A W O N N H
N L I R G M T V S H A B R R D T S A N E
E E R U S W A H O O V E R E A E R L E N
S V O H N L O C N I L E R I I G E E K O
I E L T O C N O S N H O J O N P F V N S
E S Y R S S N G S S M A O W E S F E T I
P O A A N A R D C L E S L S U O E L Y R
A O T I H E H C L E V E L A N D J C N R
L R D R O F H I A E U N A G A E R E O A
O I R H J G F I N S D Y A G N I D R A H

WASHINGTON	POLK	ARTHUR	ROOSEVELT
ADAMS	TAYLOR	CLEVELAND	TRUMAN
JEFFERSON	FILLMORE	HARRISON	EISENHOWER
MADISON	PIERCE	CLEVELAND	KENNEDY
MONROE	BUCHANAN	McKINLEY	JOHNSON
ADAMS	LINCOLN	ROOSEVELT	NIXON
JACKSON	JOHNSON	TAFT	FORD
VAN BUREN	GRANT	WILSON	CARTER
HARRISON	HAYES	HARDING	REAGAN
TYLER	GARFIELD	COOLIDGE	BUSH
		HOOVER	CLINTON

This Month in S.F. History FEBRUARY

- 2: In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ending the Mexican-American War and officially ceding California to the United States.
- 3: In 1913, street cars began running through the Twin Peaks Tunnel, completed in 1917.
- 11: In 1964, select major streets were first illuminated using coal gas. In 1939, construction started on Treasure Island - an 19,799,000 square foot fill adjacent to Yerba Buena Island - to serve as location of the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition.
- 12: In 1961, the Adelphi Theatre hosted *Le Sonnambule*, the City's first grand opera. In 1945, San Francisco was selected site of the United Nations Conference.
- 15: In 1961, Fort Point - under construction for many years - was finally completed, housing two companies of the 3rd Artillery. In 1880, the Geary St. Railroad

- opened, providing the first rail service to the ocean. In 1917, the S.F. Public Library in the Civic Center was dedicated.
- 19: In 1859, boundaries were designated creating San Francisco as a county. In 1939, the exposition opened its first year at Treasure Island, with 50 cents for adults and a quarter for children under 12.
- 20: In 1915, the Panama Pacific Exposition opened its gates.
- 26: In 1891, the first of many bison were purchased for Golden Gate Park. In 1933, Crissy Field in the Presidio hosted ground-breaking ceremonies for construction of the Golden Gate Bridge.
- 27: In 1907, the Farallone Islands, once infested during the gold rush by profit-seeking egg poachers, was officially sanctioned a Federal Bird Reserve.
- 28: In 1849, the 1,050 ton steamer *California* arrived in S.F. Bay. Although 1,600 people sought continuing transport from Panama, the 200 foot-long ship - built for 200 passengers - carried nearly 400 for 42 days - first of the forty-niners.

FIVE YEARS AGO IN THE GRAPEVINE

- FEBRUARY 1991
- *More than 50 neighbors met at Visitation Valley Community Center January 14, organized with assistance of San Francisco's Project SAFE to address the problem of crime victimizing their families.
- *Visitation Valley Middle School expanded its existing programs with an emphasis on the positive and self-esteem.
- *S.F. Department of Public Works

Recipe of the Month

QUICK BEEF STEW
1 pound cooked beef (2 to 2 1/2 cups cut-up); 4 medium carrots (cut into 2 1/2 inch strips); 3 medium potatoes (pared and cut into 1 1/2 inch pieces); 1 cup sliced celery; 1 envelope onion soup mix; 3 tbsps. unbleached flour; 2 1/4 cups water.
Mix all ingredients in 2 1/2 quart casserole. Cover and microwave on high to boiling, 10 to 12 minutes; stir. Cover and let stand 5 minutes. Microwave until vegetables are tender, 10 to 12 minutes more, stirring every 5 minutes. Serves 6.

GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD Solution on Page 5

ACROSS

1. Sneeze

5. Disaster

9. Horse game

10. Great Lake

11. Enter

12. Obtain

15. Consumed

16. Fresh

19. Nay

20. Mr.

21. Aleo

23. Iowa (ab)

25. True

26. White

27. Massachusetts

29. Period

31. Peak

34. Is

36. Uncooked

38. Pennsylvania

39. Oceania

41. Utopia

43. Solid

44. Femur

DOWN

1. Twirl

2. Single

3. Mr. Bundy

4. Swamp

5. Maine

6. Age

7. Venue

8. Pee

13. Finish

14. For

17. Did be

19. Bend

22. Bow

24. Insect

26. School group

27. Crush

28. District

29. Either

30. Bow

32. Expose

33. Glaze

35. Lichen

37. Net

40. South Dakota

42. Make

Wedding of the Waters

From Previous Page

I understood the captain pretty well. His Portuguese was precise and well-enunciated. He was evidently well-educated, experienced in dealing with foreigners and intelligent. He must be sharp to be able to understand the Portuguese I'm throwing at him, I thought.

"You speak a little Brazilian, eh," said the captain with an approving smile.

"Very little."

"No. You are speaking almost like a Brazilian. Where did you learn?"

What a kiddie, I thought. But nice of you to say that.

"I used to listen to short wave radio broadcasts of *Radio Nacional de Brasil* in Colombia," I explained. "And I have a book."

"I congratulate you."

"Thanks."

He asked a few more routine questions and looked at my passport again. Then he frowned as though he were about to perform an unpleasant task.

"Now - about your passage. The fare is \$1,000 *cruzeiros*."

I nodded and pointed to the desk; I had placed the money down before he finished telling me the price. The captain gave me a speculative glance. Then he counted the money and smiled. Still, I knew my gesture hadn't been lost on him.

"I already spoke with the other passengers about the passage," I said. "That's how I knew the price beforehand."

"*Tudo bem*," said the captain, pocketing the money. "I don't have to explain everything to you."

Tudo bem, I thought. There's that phrase again. I've been hearing it constantly ... This time I get the sense of it - it means everything is cool. Now I can use it myself.

The captain made out a receipt and passed it to me. "All right," he said. "Thank you." I absently filed the receipt in my passport. I bid the captain goodbye and left the cabin. Just as I was about to climb down the ladder, I spotted the two women I had seen the night before in the hammocks behind the captain's cabin. I stopped in my

tracks and smiled at them. They lay still, their hammocks gently swaying, unsmiling, regarding me speculatively.

"*Tudo bem*," I ventured.

One of them, with a nice creamy complexion and a cute, but hard face eyed me coldly. The other, somewhat older and plainer, smiled guardedly. Neither of them spoke.

Not very friendly, I thought. Why are

they so suspicious? And how much do their tickets cost? Huh?

I gave the cute one my best guileless smile. It seemed to irritate her; her face hardened even more. Whatever, I thought. I nodded amiably and went down the ladder without another word. I guess I'll find out what they're all about later.

Continued Next Month



Historic Proportions

- Match clues to their answers.
- 1952
1. They were repeat World Series winners.
 2. And they were champions of the National Football League.
 3. Best Actor at the Emmy Awards on February 18.
 4. In August, publisher William Gaines brings out the first issue of this now-popular magazine.
 5. This team won the Stanley Cup in the National Hockey League.
 6. Brushes in hand, people started doing a lot of this.
 7. On February 8, she ascended the throne in Great Britain.
 8. This movie made the most money at the box office.
 9. On July 3, he started being Mr. Peepers.
 10. On September 23, he announced to the country that Checkers the dog would remain a part of his family.
 11. Sharple the parrot is repeatedly selling these on TV.
 12. Egyptians finally oust his corrupt

- government on July 23.
13. Best Picture at the Academy Awards
 14. On September 23, he defeated Jersey Joe Walcott to become heavy-weight boxing champion.
 15. Prospectors start journeying to Canada to file claims for mining this element.
 16. On October 31, the United States detonates this for the first time.
 17. These first start appearing in New York to ease confusion at congested intersections.
 18. He became president in a landslide victory.
- A. Rocky Marciano
B. Richard Nixon
C. King Farouk
D. Painting-by-numbers
E. Detroit Lions
F. An American in Paris
G. Gillette razor blades
H. Uranium
I. Hydrogen bomb
J. Dwight D. Eisenhower
K. Wally Cox
L. Three-light traffic signal
M. The Greatest Show on Earth
N. Mad
O. Queen Elizabeth II
P. New York Yankees
Q. Detroit Red Wings
R. Sid Caesar

MINUTE MAZE



Book Review

The People's Almanac Presents the 20th Century by David Wallechinsky; Little, Brown and Company; 840 pgs.; \$24.95

In the same vein that made three giant-sized *People's Almanacs* and several *Books of Lists* so popular, Wallechinsky's latest compilation covers more than enough diverse topics to live up to its subtitle as "The Definitive Compendium of Astonishing Events, Amazing People, and Strange-But-True Facts." From world leaders and noted spies to science, technology and bad predictions - and let's not forget Otto Frederick Rohwedder who, in 1928, came up with the idea for sliced bread.

Sessions for PC Users

San Francisco PC Users Group will conduct its next two sessions on February 20 and March 19, 7:30 p.m. at UCSF Laurel Heights, 3333 California St. Admission is \$4.

On the agenda February 20 is Microsoft Office and SCSI Devices, while March 19 features author and consultant Lenny Balles and *America On Line*. Call 777-1332 or 572-1100 for further information.

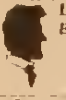



Famous Birthdays

- FEBRUARY
- 1: Don Everly (1937); Sherman Helmsley (1938); Rick James (1952); Garrett Morris (1919); Bill Mumy (1954); Lisa Marie Presley (1968); Stuart Whitman (1928); Boris Yeltsin (1931)
- 2: Amanda Blake (1931); Christie Brinkley (1954); Garth Brooks (1982); Farrah Fawcett (1947); Gale Gordon (1906); James Joyce (1882); Graham Nash (1942); Tom Smothers (1937)
- 3: Joey Bishop (1919); James Bridges (1938); Victor Bouno (1938); Thomas Calabro (1959); Dave Davies (1947); Morgan Fairchild (1950); Norman Rockwell (1894)
- 4: Michael Beck (1949); Clint Black (1962); David Brenner (1945); Nigel Bruce (1895); Alice Cooper (1949); Charles Lindbergh (1902); Ida Lupino (1914); Dan Quayle (1947)
- 5: Hank Aaron (1934); Red Buttons (1919); Barbara Hershey (1948); Jennifer Jason Leigh (1962); Roger Staubach (1942)
- 6: Tom Brokaw (1940); Natalie Cole (1950); Fabian (1943); Mike Farrell (1939); Zee Zee Gabor (1917); Patrick Macnee (1922); Ronald Reagan (1911); Rip Torn (1931); Michael Tucker (1944); Mame Van Doren (1933)
- 7: Eddie Breken (1920); Charles Dickens (1812); Sinclair Lewis (1895); Gay Talese (1932)
- 8: Gary Coleman (1968); Robert Klein (1942); Ted Koppel (1940); Jack Lemmon (1923); Audrey Meadows (1924); Nick Nolte (1940); Mary Steinburgen (1953); Lyle Talbot (1902); Lana Turner (1921); Jules Verne (1929); John Williams (1932)
- 9: William Henry Harrison (1773); Mia Farrow (1945); Carole King (1942); Judith

Bump, the Grump



- Light (1949); Roger Mudd (1929); Joe Pesci (1943); Bill Veack (1914)
- 10: Laura Dern (1967); Donovan (1948); Jimmy Durante (1892); Roberta Flack (1939); Brit Tilden (1893); Robert Wagner (1930)
- 11: Lloyd Bentsen (1921); Sheryl Crow (1963); Thomas Edison (1847); Tina Louise (1926); Sergio Mendez (1941); Leslie Nielsen (1926); Burt Reynolds (1938); Sidney Sheldon (1917)
- 12: Charles Darwin (1809); Joe Garagiola (1929); Anselmo Hall (1955); Abraham Lincoln (1809)
- 13: Stockard Channing (1944); Peter Gabriel (1950); Kim Novak (1933); Oliver Reed (1938); George Segal (1934); Leslie Stevens (1924); Peter Tork (1944)
- 14: Mel Allen (1913); Jack Benny (1894); Hugh Downs (1921); Florence Henderson (1934); Gregory Hines (1948); Alan Parker (1944); Meg Tilly (1960)
- 15: Susan B. Anthony (1820); John Barrymore (1882); Ken Curtis (1923); Galileo (1564); Melt Groening (1954); Harvey Korman (1927); Melissa Manchester (1951); Cesar Romero (1907); Jane Seymour (1951)
- 16: Patty Andrews (1920); Edgar Bergen (1903); Sonny Bono (1935); James Ingram (1956); John McEnroe (1959); Vera-Ellen (1926)
- 17: Jim Brown (1936); Margaret Truman Daniel (1924); Michael Jordan (1963); Hal Holbrook (1923); Lou Diamond Phillips (1962); Gene Pitney (1941); A. Montgomery Ward (1843)
- 18: Helen Gurley Brown (1922); Matt Dillon (1964); George Kennedy (1925); Juice Newton (1952); Jack Palance (1920); Molly Ringwald (1959); Cybill Shepherd (1950); John Travolta (1954); Vanna White (1957); Wendell Willkie (1902)
- 19: Prince Andrew (1960); Justine Bateman (1966); Lou Christie (1943); Nicolas
- Copernicus (1473); Jeff Daniels (1955); Falco (1957); Smokey Robinson (1940); Forrest Tucker (1919)
- 20: Ansel Adams (1902); Charles Barkley (1963); Cindy Crawford (1968); Sandy Duncan (1948); J. Gels (1948); Frank Jordan (1935); Alexei Koygin (1904); Jennifer O'Neill (1949); Sidney Poitier (1927); Andrew Rhue (1967); Peter Strauss (1947); Gloria Vanderbilt (1924); Nancy Wilson (1937)
- 21: Christopher Atkins (1961); Erma Bombeck (1927); David Gaffin (1943); Ann Sheridan (1915); Nina Simone (1933)
- 22: Sparky Anderson (1934); Drew Barrymore (1975); Julie Erving (1950); Ted Kennedy (1932); Sheldon Leonard (1907); John Mille (1908); George Washington (1732); Robert Young (1907)
- 23: Sylvia Chase (1938); Peter Fonda (1939); George F. Handel (1885); Robert Novak (1944); Johnny Winter (1944)
- 24: James Farentino (1938); Chester Nimitz (1895); John Vernon (1932); Abe Vigoda (1921); Honus Wagner (1874)
- 25: Jim Backus (1913); Diane Baker (1938); Francisco Coronado (1510); George Harrison (1943); Sally Jessy Raphael (1943); Bobby Riggs (1918)
- 26: Michael Bolton (1953); Johnny Cash (1932); Buffalo Bill Cody (1848); Fats Domino (1929); Jackie Gleason (1920); Betty Hutton (1925); Tony Randall (1928); Mitch Ryder (1945)
- 27: Chelsea Clinton (1980); Howard Kesselman (1940); Ralph Nader (1934); Irwin Shaw (1913); Grant Show (1962); John Steinbeck (1902); Elizabeth Taylor (1932); Joanne Woodward (1930)
- 28: Mario Andretti (1940); Geord McLeod (1930); Bernadette Peters (1948); Bubba Smith (1948); Tommy Tune (1939)
- 29: Jimmy Dorsey (1904); Ann Lee (1738); James Mitchell (1920); Gioacchino Rossini (1792)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
City Meetings: Aging-1st Wed 9:30 am; Airport-1st & 3rd Tu 3 pm; Arts-1st Mon 3 pm; Education-2nd/4th Tu 7 pm; Health-1st/3rd Tu 3 pm; Housing Authority-2nd/4th Th 4 pm; Human Rights-1st/3rd Th 4:30 pm; Library-1st Tu 5:30 pm; Planning-Th 1:30 pm; Police-Wed 6:30 pm; Port-1st Tu/3rd Wed 4:30 pm; Public Utilities-2nd/4th Tu 2 pm; Rec and Park-3rd Th 2 pm; Social Services-4th Th 9:30 am; Status of Women-4th Th 4pm; Supervisors-Mon 2 pm.				1 11:00am VVCC Senior Council Meeting 7:00pm BUREAU meeting	2 12:00pm VVCC Seniors Painting Classes	3
4 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	5 11:00am VVCC Seniors Shopping Day	6 12:30pm VVCC Senior Bingo	7	8	9 12:00pm VVCC Seniors Painting Classes	10
11 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	12 11:30am VVCC Seniors Shopping Day  Lincoln's Birthday	13 12:30pm VVCC Senior Bingo 4:00pm VVCC Board Meeting 4:00pm Sunnydale Tennis Meet 7:00pm 11 Dorado N.B.C. Meeting	14 6:00pm Executive Park Advisory Committee  Valentine's Day	15	16 12:00pm VVCC Seniors Painting Classes	17 10:00am Friends of McLaren Park 
18 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	19 11:30am VVCC Seniors Shopping Day  President's Day	20 12:30pm VVCC Senior Bingo	21 Ash Wednesday	22 9:00am USDA Surplus Food Distribution Day at VVCC	23 12:00pm VVCC Seniors Painting Classes	24 10:00am Vis Valley Test Fries at 240 Leland
25 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	26 11:30am VVCC Seniors Shopping Day	27 12:30pm VVCC Senior Bingo	28	29	DEADLINE FEBRUARY 20 FOR MARCH GRAPEVINE	

Free Assistance for State's Taxpayers

Free tax assistance is just a phone call or a few keystrokes away for California taxpayers, who can either phone or access the Internet for help this year.

Answers to the most commonly asked state tax questions, information about your state refund, and tax forms for both state and federal are available through the **Fast Answers about State Taxes (FAST)** telephone service at (800) 338-0505. FAST answers to tax questions are available 24 hours a day while refund and tax forms are available 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. You can find more information about FAST on the back cover of the state tax booklet.

For information and assistance not available through the FAST telephone service, taxpayers can call Franchise Tax Board's regular toll-free phone service through April 15, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday at (800) 852-5711. Best time to call is before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m.

California tax forms and general state tax information are on the Internet. You can get 1994 and 1995 California income tax forms and publications and answers to the most asked state tax questions by going to the California Home Page at: <http://www.ca.gov> and accessing the California Franchise Tax Board.

There are a few changes to this year's state income taxes. California indexed its income tax brackets by 2.3 percent. Indexing considers the inflation rate and adjusts the tax rates and certain credits to insure that taxpayers do not pay additional taxes year to year due solely to inflation.

There are two new voluntary contribution funds. They are the California Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Fund and the California Military Museum Fund.

To get refunds fast, taxpayers can file electronically through a qualified tax preparer. The FTB guarantees the refunds from electronically filed returns

will be mailed within seven days from the date the return is transmitted.

The FTB reminds taxpayers that the earlier a return is filed, the quicker the refund is issued. Taxpayers who file in January or February generally receive their refunds within two to four weeks. Those filing in March or April could wait six to eight weeks. Last year, nearly seven million taxpayers received refunds averaging \$370.

GGNRA EVENTS

Call for reservations and information.

CLIFF HOUSE

* *Life and Legacy of Adolph Sutro*: Slide presentation at Cliff House Visitor Center, 5 p.m. Feb. 23.

FORT FUNSTON

* *Dig In!*: Help restore dune habitat, 9:30 a.m. Feb. 25 (556-8642).

* *Who Was Fearless Freddie?*: Learn about Fort Funston during its army days, 11 a.m. Feb. 3 (556-8642).

* *Winter Digs*: Restore habitat of threatened bank swallow, 9:30 a.m. Feb. 3 (556-8642).

FORT POINT

* *Candlelight Tour*: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 3, 17 (561-4323).

* *The Stuff Forts are Made of*: Explore Fort Point, 10 a.m. Feb. 24 (561-1693).

OCEAN BEACH

* *Adopt-a-Beach Clean-up Day*: Bring friends and family to help clean Ocean Beach, 10:30 a.m. Feb. 11 (556-8642).

* *Flight of the Plover*: Learn about this shorebird, 10 a.m. Feb. 24 (556-8642).

PRESIDIO

* *Architecture and Cultural Landscape*: 1 p.m. Feb. 10 (561-4323).

* *Back to the Future*: Walking tour of the Presidio, 10 a.m. Feb. 3, 4, 11, 24; 2 p.m. (561-4323).

* *Cemetery Walk*: 2 p.m. Feb. 6, 20, 26

A Sprited Silver Wedding Anniversary



Gerry L. Galvan

Relatives and friends honored the silver wedding anniversary of Rev. Dr. Jerry D. Resus and wife Dr. Arceli N. Resus on January 27 at the Saint James Presbyterian Church social hall on Leland Avenue, some 12 days after the couple and their daughter Corinne had celebrated at a Sunset District restaurant. Included were (L-R clockwise) Cely Resus, Conrad Oller, Sr., Violet R. Galvan, Raquel Esplana, Ray Esplana, Hermie Oller, Corrine and Jerry Resus. Happy faces of faithful Christians exude at all times and at all places.

Bringing San Francisco to Sustainability

Starting in February, San Francisco will join the growing number of cities around the world in developing a **Green Plan** for its long-term sustainability, a development that meets needs of the present without compromising ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Spearheaded by the Commission on San Francisco's Environment, the City Planning Department and the nonprofit organization Sustainable City, the aim is to get the whole city, including those who rarely participate in civic matters, to come together a common future in the context of a blueprint for action.

"To bring San Francisco to the forefront of sustainability will require a hard look at who we are now, where we want to go and how do we want to get there without risking the economic and environmental health and well-being of the next generation," said Bill Lee, the City's Chief Administrative Officer.

To overcome the risk of becoming "just another document that will sit on the shelf," the format encourages participants to come up with specific actions and objective measures of success.

First series of *City Circles* begins the week of February 5. For more information or to participate in the process, call Sustainable City at 775-0396.

GRAPEVINE ADVERTISING

DISPLAY: Full Page: \$150; 1/2 Page: \$80; 1/4 Page: \$45; 1/8 Page: \$25; 1/12 Page \$15.

WANT-ADS (Private Party): 20 words for \$1. Extra line 50 cents. Mail ad and payment by 20th of prior month to Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

SMALL STUDIO APARTMENT or OFFICE: Newly renovated. Conveniently located at Bayshore and Leland on bus line and close to shops and bank. \$450/mo - No Pets. Call 415/435-8006.

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• 入籍班在星期五晚 6:30 - 9:00
和星期日早上 8:00 - 10:30

• 新學生必須要帶英文個人資料和 I.D. 報名
除底班,其他程度要考試
底班學生如方便請要講英文的人陪同來
填英文報名表格。

• 我們社團不久希望辦日間英文班和職業訓練班,如有意者,居民請留意社團通告和參加開會,欲想取得社團利益,必須每個人踴躍支持

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Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 11:00 a.m.
Friday Cottage Bible Fellowship - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Choir Rehearsal - 10:00 a.m.

YOU are cordially welcome to join us for study, worship, fellowship and service. We seek to teach the Bible and to lift up Jesus Christ so He can draw all persons to Himself.

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SE HABLA ESPANOL

有講粵語工作人員

Police Give Details of Jamaican Switch

From Ingleside Station
CAPTAIN'S NEWS

A gang enforcement and street saturation team (GESS) was formed with Ingleside Station and Mission Station, each contributing seven officers and a sergeant. Their mission was to combat the escalating rate of gang related crime.

During their ten weeks of saturation, they made 168 felony arrests, 56 misdemeanor arrests, took six guns off the street and 25 other weapons. Their efforts were evident in the reduction of gang violence and gunfire.

Ingleside officers reported the quietest New Year's Eve they could remember with no reported gunfire surrounding the midnight hour.

Recruits graduated at a record rate in December from the police academy. Ingleside Station has 23 field training officers who will be responsible for training the 20 recruits assigned here until March 23. After all the recruits are assigned to stations throughout the city, Ingleside Station expects a gain of 15 officers.

Traffic enforcement continues to be of paramount concern throughout the Ingleside District. Officer John Mulken has been certified in the use of the radar gun. Officer Mulken targets areas of complaints and cites speeding vehicles in addition to his patrol duties. He cited 53 vehicles in January.

ARRESTS IN JAMAICAN SWITCH

In front of the Onadaga Street post office, Officer Louis Cassenago spotted a car that he recalled from a wanted bulletin. Officer Cassenago and partners Officer Collins and Sergeant Johnston detained the four occupants of the car who were wanted for robbery, drug and parole violations here and in Nevada. In their car, they had all the items necessary for a Jamaican Switch.

A Jamaican Switch is a con game where a foreign visitor approaches his/her victim on the street and asks for assistance. The con man explains that they have a large sum of money they want to donate but don't know where to go. He will display a large sum of money that is really a hundred dollar bill wrapped around play money or cut paper.

At this point, suspect #2 comes along expressing concern for display-

ing so much money on the street. The con man usually shows some official papers stating he cannot return to his country for his own safety or copies of a will leaving a large sum of money for him to distribute. The con man promises to give the other suspect and the victim thousands of dollars if they help him, but they must first prove their trustworthiness. The only way suspect #2 and the victim can show their trustworthiness is to show him that they have access to large amounts of money and therefore do not need to steal.

Suspect #2 agrees to show a large amount of cash from either his home, bank or business. Suspect #2 leaves and returns with an envelope that he shows the con men. Once again, one bill is real and wrapped around cut paper. The con man then asks for the victim to show some money.

The victim will go to their bank or home and withdraw large amounts of real cash which is given to the con men to hold. He will place it in an envelope or wrap it in a scarf to keep it safe and separate from the other bundles of money that he now has.

At this point, there is some distraction at which time the con man switches the envelope containing the victim's money with a previously prepared identical bundle. The second bundle is given to the victim to hold, not knowing it is worthless.

The con man and the second suspect need to get away at this point and will arrange for a second meeting which will never occur, or pretend to leave for the airport. They will instruct the victim not to open his/her money bundle until safe at home. The two suspects will disappear, and only later will the victim discover he/she lost a large sum of money and has an envelope full of cut paper.

Victims have been men and women of all ages, racial backgrounds and economic status. Suspects vary on their pretend country of origin and the false tales they will tell. Sometimes they will follow the victim to his/her home during the scam and eye the house for a future burglary.

Since January 1995, San Franciscans have lost a total of \$157,188 to cons of this kind. Each victim has lost between \$200 to \$30,000, with the ma-

jority lost \$5,000 or \$8,000. Be aware and report suspicious activity.

SFPD's Fraud Unit handles all Jamaican Switch thefts and other con games. Call Inspector Wimser at 553-1521.

EXEMPLARY POLICE WORK

Officers Howard, Gala, Cordova, Williams and Androvich spotted two men who appeared to be casing the area of 24th and Church Streets just before the Christmas holidays. The plain clothes officers set up a foot and vehicular surveillance of the suspects and observed them burglarize a vehicle. They attempted to burglarize another vehicle but were unsuccessful.

The officers closed off all their escape routes and arrested them while attempting to steal a third vehicle. Their proactive efforts removed two active car thieves from the streets.

Earlier in the month, a watchful citizen on Ferragut Street reported a suspicious man in her neighborhood. Officer Tony Carreon broadcast the description of the suspect and Officers Martha Fabiani and Dennis Costanzo established a perimeter. Plain clothes Officers Vic Alssa and Tim Mayer were able to watch the suspect as he attempted to burglarize an occupied home in the area. The officers moved in and placed him under arrest.

Burglars and auto thieves often commit several crimes a day and the arrest of one suspect can positively impact the neighborhood for some time. We applaud these officers for their excellent work and the citizens who observed the suspicious activity and reported it to 911.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Officer Stefani

Seniors, Youth Invited to Coffman Pool



One of the nicest public swimming pools in San Francisco is located at Visitacion Avenue and Hahn Street.

Coffman Pool on the corner of Visitacion Avenue and Hahn Street is open for mid-winter business. Inside is one of the nicest pools in San Francisco.

Don Lane, the new senior swimming instructor at Coffman Pool, would especially like to invite senior citizens to come and enjoy the water Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thurs-

days between 9 and 10:30 a.m. The water is very pleasant during the time of morning.

He is also inviting families with pre-school age children to come and start swimming lessons for their younger children on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m.

For inquiries, call Don Lane at Coffman Pool, (415) 337-4702.

and Officer Steger for being recipients of the Stolen Vehicle Recovery Award Citation. Officers Stefani and Steger recovered 12 stolen vehicles leading to the arrest of three suspects.

REMEMBERING JOHN CRONIN

Many officers of Ingleside Police Station have been part of the community for years. A few were born and raised in the district and enjoy patrolling the area they know so well. Many others have been assigned to the Ingleside District for up to 25 years. All felt the loss of John Cronin, known as the Mayor of Day Street, who passed away

on November 12, 1995 after 76 years of calling Day Street his home.

He attended St. Paul's Grammar School, James Lick Middle School and Mission High School, and was a carpet layer for 40 years with W.J. Sloan Company.

Officers attending his funeral at St. Paul's report it was packed with friends and family. Officer Collins who walks the beat around Day and Church Streets says John Cronin's presence is missed daily. He will especially be remembered for his friendship with the young people in the neighborhood.

Free Weight Loss Guide Available from American Heart Association

If losing a few pounds was part of your New Year's resolution, then the American Heart Association (AHA) can start you in the right direction. In a free brochure, *A Guide to Losing Weight*, you can find helpful recommendations to turn your resolution into reality.

This handy guide, available in English and Spanish, offers advice on how to select and prepare various types of food, determine serving sizes and diet successfully. Some helpful hints include setting clear goals, examining eating habits, anticipating roadblocks and deciding beforehand how you'll

deal with problems.

Going on a diet is easy; staying on it, and overcoming the obstacles, is harder. An important point to remem-

ber is that successful dieting demands planning.

For a free copy of the guide, call AHA at 433-2273 or (800) AHA-USA1.

New Valley Housing

From Page 1

citizen patrols between Teddy Avenue and Mansell Street. He explained future patrols could be coordinated in conjunction with other Visitacion Valley groups to encompass larger patrol areas.

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY
With Visitacion Valley establishing

goals to improve job training, economic development, ESL instruction, childcare and youth matters, VVCC Executive Director Julie Kavanagh suggested the targeted areas be correlated with one another to maximize their total effect, while also helping to present a stronger final proposal for funding.

Next VVTF meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 24, 10:30 a.m. at VVCC, 50 Raymond Ave.



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